

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01659 252357Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05 HEW-04 AF-10
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 /122 W
-----260423Z 046431 /20

R 252221Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3755
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI
SUBJECT: 62D ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ITEM 3

REF: USUN 1511

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIONS OF THE 62D ECOSOC WITH
RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WERE THOSE TAKEN ON THE
RESOLUTIONS UNDER ITEM 3, DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE AFRICAN DELE-
GATES DEVOTED THE MAJORITY OF THEIR
TIME TO THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO PRODUCE TEXTS
WHICH WOULD BE LIKELY TO BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS AND
TO PAVE THE WAY FOR UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION IN THE 1978
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD UNDER THE PROGRAM OF THE DECADE.
THEY WERE REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL IN THAT THE RESOLUTION
ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. A
GENERAL RESOLUTION ON THE PROGRAM OF THE DECADE FAILED
TO ACHIEVE A CONSENSUS DUE TO LANGUAGE ON ECONOMIC
SANCTIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE EC9, EXCEPT FOR DENMARK WHICH VOTED
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01659 252357Z

IN FAVOR. A THIRD RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE ANTI-
APARTHEID CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN LAGOS IN
AUGUST, 1977, WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. THE US MAIN-
TAINED IT POSITION OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE
AND THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE DEBATE WAS RELATIVELY LOWKEY, HEATED

UP ONLY AT ONE POINT BY THE ISRAELI DELEGATE, THERE STILL REMAIN SOME PROBLEMS TO BE FACED WITH RESPECT TO THE DEACE AND THE ZIONISM ISSUE. THE RESOLUTIONS THEMSELVES WERE CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED TO AVOID MENTION OF RESOLUTION 3379(XXX) OR ANY OTHER FORM OF THE ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION. THE IMPORTANT FACTOR AT THIS SESSION WAS THE COMBINATION OF AFRICAN DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE RADICAL ARABS TO AVOID MENTION OF ZIONISM AND WESTERN WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS AND LESS THAN PERFECT WORDING IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN MOMENTUM AND CONTINUE FORWARD PROGRESS IN DE-EMPHASIZING THE ZIONISM ISSUE.

3. IN EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE GIVEN AFTER THE VOTE BOTH THE WESTERN DELEGATES AND THE MORE RADICAL ARABS REVERTED TO MORE HARD-LINE POSITIONS. THE UK, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EC9, MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE IN THE BELIEF THAT IT WILL PROCEED ON THE ORIGINAL BASIS OF RESOLUTION 3057(XXVIII). THE CANADIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE RESOLUTION ON THE CONFERENCE, HIS DELEGATION INTERPRETED THE ITEM CALLING FOR THE FORMULATION OF METHODS TO SECURE "FULL AND UNIVERSAL IMPLEMENTATION OF UN DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS" AS REFERRING TO THOSE DECISIONS AND RESOLUTION THAT HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS SINCE 1973 (THIS IMPLIES EXCLUSION OF RESOLUTION 3379). NORWAY STATED EXPLICITLY THAT THEY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION 3379 WAS NO LONGER RELEVANT. FOLLOWING THESE STATEMENTS, SEVERAL ARAB DELEGATIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01659 252357Z

JOINED BY CUBA, REITERATED THEIR VIEW THAT RESOLUTION 3379 WAS STILL RELEVANT. ALGERIA STATED THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD DEAL WITH ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING ZIONISM. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE FORCED A RENEWED AIRING OF VIEWS ON 3379, IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS EXCHANGE WAS CONFINED TO A BRIEF PERIOD OF EXPLANATIONS FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THREE IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS IN WHICH ZIONISM WAS NOT MENTIONED. IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC TO EXPECT THE ARABS TO MAINTAIN TOTAL SILENCE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTIONS THEMSELVES.

4. AT THIS POINT, THE MISSION SUGGESTS WE BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR DEALING WITH THE DECADE AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AS A FIRST STEP, WE RECOMMEND THAT A DECISION BE MADE IN FAVOR OF PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID TO BE HELD IN LAGOS AUGUST 22 TO 26, 1977. THIS CONFERENCE WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE

GA IN RESOLUTION 31/6/G OF NOVEMBER 9, 1976 AND WILL BE ORGANIZED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID. ALTHOUGH THIS CONFERENCE IS NOT A PART OF THE DECADE ACTIVITIES, A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THIS CONFERENCE WAS ADOPTED UNDER THE AGENDA ITEM ON THE DECADE. THIS RESOLUTION, INTER ALIA, RECALLS THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RESOLUTION WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT THE GA DECLARE 1978 ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR, AND INVITES THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID TO PRESENT THE REPORT AND DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

5. THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT US PARTICIPATION IN THE LAGOS CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID HAS MERITS OF ITS OWN IN VIEW OF USG POLICY VIS-A-VIS SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, US PARTICIPATION WOULD ALSO PRESENT AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR A RESOLUTION OR OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 USUN N 01659 252357Z

DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD HELP TURN THE FOCUS OF THE 1978 WORLD CONFERENCE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE ZIONISM ISSUE. WE SEE US PARTICIPATION AT THE LAGOS CONFERENCE AS A KEY STEP IN OUR STRATEGY TO RETURN THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO A FRAMEWORK MERITING US PARTICIPATION. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, MEETING AGENDA, MEETING REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01659
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770187-1131
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770517/aaaaaoky.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0aabc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 1511
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2364194
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 62D ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ITEM 3
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, XX, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0aabc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009